

Project Summary

The Pit RCD proposes this project to address restoration and fuels management needs for four representative project sites associated along the main stem of the Pit River, as identified in the Pit RCD Watershed Management Strategy (WMS). These sites offer challenges requiring detailed, site specific study and design in order to address a range of resource problems: Soil/bank erosion, water quality, aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitat degradation, and adverse effects on the working agricultural land affected by these conditions. These conditions are typically associated with water quality stressors – temperature, turbidity and sediment – cited in the listing of the Upper Pit River as an impaired water body under the Federal Clean Water Act.

The four sites represent challenges associated with channel downcutting and loss of flood plain connectivity, irrigation diversion structures and their associated impoundments, channelization and a range of associated undesirable environmental conditions. A total of two river miles will be studied for future treatment in detail under this proposal. It is expected that results of this effort will be helpful in future treatment of many river miles of similar conditions in the vicinity.

The four study sites are working farms and ranches and will be addressed in voluntary cooperation with the four landowner families. The sites are representative of conditions that are common in the Pit RCD, and should serve as models for future treatments at many other sites.

The proposed project will directly address three SNC program goals: Working landscapes, regional economic support, and water quality. The proposed project will contribute to the conservation of living resources through restoring important aquatic, riparian and terrestrial habitats.

The goal of this proposal is the delivery of four project plans that are fully permitted and ready for implementation. The proposed project will also be featured in public outreach and education efforts.

The proposed project is also consistent with treatment of conditions identified in the Pit River Watershed Assessment as contributing to stressors to water quality in the Upper Pit River. The proposed project is consistent with the CalFed Bay-Delta Authority's goals and objectives, and is consistent with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) basin plan for the Sacramento/Central Valley watershed.

Budget: Personnel \$ 9,600; Operating Expenses (permit fees, publication costs, etc.) \$21,600; Contract Services \$100,100; Total sum requested: \$137,300. In-kind and matching funds: \$ 6,400 Total Project Value: \$ 143,700.